

7 January 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR: [REDACTED]

25X1A

SUBJECT : Further Background on the Agenda  
Items for the 13 January Meeting of  
the ARGO Steering Committee

25X1A 1. With regard to the NOAA (National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration) briefing on the utilization of U-2 photography that has been supplied to ESSA over the past two years, [REDACTED] tells me that he is having substantial difficulty in persuading Bill Davis of the ESSA component of NOAA to develop a meaningful briefing on the strengths and weaknesses, costs, and value of the U-2 data provided to his people for their study of the Sierra Nevada snowfields. We can only hope that Bill Davis will arrange a useful briefing that will reflect the degree to which COMIREX and CIA cooperation was of use.

2. The fact that the USGS proposed to the ARGO Committee that it initiate action on the questions listed under item 2 of the agenda (see Tab A) does not imply that the use of the proposed unclassified imagery would be by any means exclusively for mapping within the US. In fact, Fred Doyle, in representing Dr. Pecora, the Director of USGS, said that other interests of the geological survey substantially outweighed the mapping interests with respect to this imagery. Geological exploration, hydrographic studies, and other environmental studies falling within the responsibilities of the Department of Interior were being considered.

3. I pointed out to [REDACTED] that item 2a of the agenda relating to an unclassified index should be moved down to 2b because there would be no reason for declassifying the entire index

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of U-2 photography over the US unless all the imagery therefrom could be made available on an unclassified basis. I suggested that item 2b, which would request the standardization of classification on various types of U-2 photography should precede the request for an index of U-2 photography. He agreed. For your information, the index referred to will be available for the cleared members of the ARGO Steering Committee. Fred Doyle has examined this index and feels that some significant areas for geological and environmental study have already been covered and that the availability of unclassified imagery of such areas would be most useful. As you know, he is now perhaps the most competent man within the USGS and on the ARGO Steering Committee to make such a judgment. [ ] has not made any additional specific survey of the views of the various civil agencies regarding current and past coverage by U-2 photography over the US.

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4. With regard to item 2c relating to the classification of data obtained from the [ ] I have been informed that the planimetric information derived therefrom is unclassified but that the information that could be obtained through the use of [ ] methods to obtain vertical data has been classified by DoD/DIA as Confidential. However, [ ] me that, if the [ ] approach were to be used to obtain the vertical aspects of [ ] only over the US, he could and would obtain authorization for its use on an unclassified basis. The equipment would remain, however, under the control of the DoD.

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5.

6. Another point brought up in our discussion was that NASA, contrary to its present trend of thinking, should keep out of developing an operating mode in terms of establishing a ground

processing center for imagery to be used for earth resources surveys by civilian consumers. It was felt that NASA should demonstrate the quality of the performance of equipment under development through the test and evaluation stages but that it should then turn over the equipment to some operating outfit like the USGS or whoever else wants to and can support such a program. [ ] said that the letter from [ ] to Dr. Low of NASA, which I mentioned in an earlier memorandum and in which a series of specific questions regarding the anticipated quality of the imagery from the ERTS A and B, was answered but without response to the specifics requested.

7.

8. Both [ ] and [ ] feel that Mr. [ ] should attend the 13 January ARGO Committee meeting because of the emphasis on problems of declassifying various types of photography

9. In conclusion, [ ] who is leaving his present office momentarily, feels that [ ] either justify and demonstrate the usefulness of the ARGO as an interface with the intelligence community or cancel it out as being ineffective.

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b.

c.

d.

e.

Attachments  
Tabs A and B

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505  
27 April 1969

Mr. Donald Baker  
National Environmental Satellite Center, ESG  
Washington, D.C. 20233

Dear Mr. Baker,

In accordance with agreement reached between yourself, members of my staff and [redacted] on 3 February 1969, some U-2 main camera photography of the snow basin areas in Western United States has been accomplished in support of a special ESSA snow survey study. It is my understanding it will greatly facilitate your use of this film if it can be utilized as unclassified material.

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I have asked [redacted] to forward the film to you with the appropriate [redacted] classification. If there are any further questions on this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me or a member of my staff

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[redacted]

Chairman

Committee on Imagery Requirements and Exploitation

MEMORANDUM FOR:

SUBJECT : Classification of Domestic U-2 Photography

25X1 1. The first instance of the use of domestic U-2 photography at the unclassified level, to my knowledge, is the film from the [redacted] flown, using the CIA aircraft, on 14 July 1969. This mission was flown for three purposes:

A. To assist OBGI to update the maps used in training

B. To provide the Building Planning Staff with photographs of Headquarters and the surrounding area.

C. To provide coverage of the

25X1 2. Following discussion within the Agency, the total roll of [redacted]

be used at the unclassified level if it was sanitized primarily by removing the fiducial marks, enlarging, and giving no information on the height and speed of the aircraft from which the photography was taken. This classification carried over to the stereo pairs provided naval engineers at Norfolk to determine the drainage patterns at [redacted] prior to determining future building locations.

3. Attached for your information are two memoranda regarding the subject matter. Attachment A is an internal Air Force memo to the Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence, which notes in Paragraph 1 that domestic U-2 photography has been provided to the Department of Agriculture at an unclassified basis as long as the taking organization is not identified and the altitude, capability of the aircraft is not revealed. Attachment B, a memo to the Air Force from the DIA Member of the SDWG discusses the sale of domestic U-2 photography as well as its use within the US government. Paragraph 3 notes that film from the [redacted] could be loaned to various Federal Government agencies at the classification FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY. And Paragraph 4 set forth the procedure for the sale of such photography to State Governments and private

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individuals. The Air Force population referred to prevent the  
sale of any photography showing US military and other sensitive  
government installations.

4. As noted in Paragraph 2 of Attachment B, the procedures  
discussed were coordinated with the undersigned and the \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ both of whom discussed this with the ADDI.



## REQUEST FOR NPIC SUPPORT

READ INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE BEFORE COMPLETING FORM

REQUESTING AGENCY		3. DATE PREPARED		4. DATE REQUIRED	
C.I.A.		23 December 1970		11 January 1971	
OFFICE		6. PHONE NO.		7. REQUESTER'S CONTROL NO.	
25X1A IRS/Recce/E				25X1	
REQUESTING OFFICER		9. SUGGESTED JOB TITLE			
		Astronaut Training With Color Film			
3E NO.		11. COUNTRY CODE			
		U.S.			

## DESCRIPTION OF REQUIREMENT AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION

25X1A a. Para 2 of attached reference requests that certain "Red Dot" photography be made available to the USGS to provide material for astronaut training. [ ] from the office of the Chairman, COMIREX, has asked that this request be honored, and suggests that the appropriate party in NPIC contact Mr. Doyle, Interior ARGO member, directly to work out details.

It is our understanding that coverage of the areas in question is available.

This matter was discussed by phone with [ ] of NPIC.  
[ ] is aware of this requirement.

## SPECIFIC REQUIREMENT

Provide "Red Dot" color panoramic coverage of the following areas to the USGS.

- California Coast in the vicinity of San Francisco,
- Edwards AFB to Mojave,
- Arizona-Nevada be made available to the USGS to provide material for astronaut training.

A(15)